



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**EL PASO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMPANY MANAGERS  
SENTENCED IN FRAUD SCHEME**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that 46-year-old Hector Villa, owner of Villafam Contracting Services, LLC., an environmental services company in El Paso, is in custody after being sentenced earlier today to five years in federal prison for scheming to defraud the City of El Paso of more than \$685,000.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Frank Montalvo ordered that Villa pay restitution to the City of El Paso in the amount of \$685,410.35 and be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term. Judge Montalvo also sentenced Villa's sister and company manager, 36-year-old Denise Villa-Aceves, to three years probation and ordered her to perform 300 hours of community service for her role in the scheme.

From April 1999 to July 2003, the defendants devised and implemented a scheme to fraudulently collect money from the City of El Paso with respect to the collection and disposal of household hazardous waste material. The defendants submitted fraudulent invoices to the city which inflated the amount of hazardous waste collected and disposed of by the company. In October 2004, Villa pled guilty to conspiracy to commit mail fraud; Villa-Aceves, misprision of felony.

"This brother and sister duo claimed that they were cleaning up El Paso, but were really ripping off the taxpayer's hard earned money. Today's sentence holds them to account for their crime," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

Villafam Contracting Services, LLC. is subject to \$500,000.00 in fines after pleading guilty in October 2004 to conspiracy to commit mail fraud. Sentencing for the company is scheduled for March 3, 2005.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation together with the Environmental Protection Agency and El Paso County Sheriff's Office. Assistant United States Attorney William Lewis, Jr., prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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